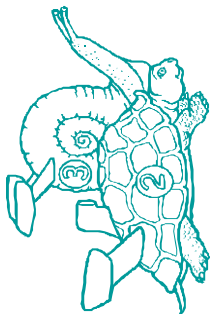




# SWIFT

Soil and Water Information for Teachers



## Spotlight on Resources:

### Storm Water



Storm drains, commonly called storm sewers, line our streets in urban settings. Their purpose is to take the water off the roads during a heavy storm and keep the roads safe for travel by preventing flooded streets. These storm drains are piped directly to our closest creeks and rivers. As a result, anything on the road, sidewalk, or your driveway that is swept into the storm drain is carried directly to our waterways. This generally includes oil from cars and trucks, salt from treating the roads in the winter, soap from washing our cars, fertilizers and pesticides from our lawns and litter. All of these items can have harmful affects on the water quality in our streams. To keep our rivers clean, we promote the motto: “Only Rain Down the Drain”.



### DOES YOUR CLASS NEED A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT? TRY STORM DRAIN MARKING!



Help raise awareness on water pollution prevention by participating in the City of Columbus “No Dumping, Drains to Rivers” storm drain marking project. Volunteers are needed to apply vinyl disks on curbs near storm drains. The markers are

designed to remind residents to never dump hazardous materials into these inlets, which drain to streams and rivers. They also bear the phone number to report suspected hazardous dumping into a storm drain or waterway in Columbus, which is 645-STREAM (7873). The project is part of the Department of Public Utilities’ “We All Live Downstream” public education program. It is a very easy community service activity that can be done by your class. The city supplies the disks, adhesive and instructions. You can choose the neighborhood in which to place the markers, which must be within Columbus. For more information, please call 645-2123 to request an information packet to be mailed or visit <http://utilities.columbus.gov> for more information. To obtain markers to do a project in another jurisdiction outside of Columbus, please contact that jurisdiction’s public service or utilities department.



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Franklin SWCD has developed two new, literature based programs. Elementary students can learn about human impact on the environment while sitting in *The Lorax* setting and participating in the story. Students grades 5-7 will investigate the same topic through the play *The Murky Water Caper*. Call Linda at 614-486-9613 about these new programs.



# Fun Stuff to Do



## The Wildlife Around You

OSU and ODNR Division of Wildlife speakers will present updates on Bald Eagles, Bluebirds, Badgers and River Otters in Ohio on Wednesday evening, February 21, 2007 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Buckeye Room of the Union County Ag Center, 18000 State Route 4 in Marysville, OH. For more information contact John Rockenbaugh, Union SWCD at 937-642-5871.

## Listening to the Land...



### Reading *A Sand County Almanac*

Environmental educators and enthusiasts in Central Ohio have coordinated an effort to present Aldo Leopold's classic book, *A Sand County Almanac* to the public with seasonal readings and related activities throughout 2007. The kick-off event will take place on Sunday, March 4th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Highbanks Metro Park. Look for additional events to hear and experience portions of this great work throughout Central Ohio at [www.epa.state.oh.us/oef/leopold2007](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oef/leopold2007).

## Wild at Night

Gain more insight of the natural world after dark, from fireflies to flying squirrels at the 2007 Wildlife Diversity Conference, March 14th, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Aladdin Shrine Center. Registration is \$20 (before February 23rd). Register on-line at [www.ohiodnr.com/wildilfe/conferences](http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildilfe/conferences).



## International Migratory Bird Day

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on Friday, May 11th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and Saturday, May 12th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Numerous bird-related activities will be held at the Water's Edge Events Park, rain or shine. Schools visiting on Friday will receive an education rate. For more information call Ginger at 614-645- 3410.

## Conservation Poster Contest

Franklin SWCD is once again sponsoring a poster contest on grocery paper bags. The contest is open to all Franklin County students in grades K-12. This year's theme is "Community Waters", focusing on ways we can work together to keep our local rivers clean and healthy. The contest runs from late February to mid April. The poster bags are given to customers as regular grocery sacks to celebrate Earth Day, bringing the environmental message and students' art work into the community. The awards ceremony will be held at the Rose Festival in June. Contact Linda at (614) 486-9613 or [Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org](mailto:Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org) for more information or to register your class or youth group.

## Envirothon Competition



Sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Envirothon competition is a perfect way to increase your high school students' awareness of environmental topics and issues. During this outdoor contest high school students, in teams of five members, answer questions about forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues. The national environmental theme for 2007 is "Alternative Energy". Our Area competition (17 counties in central and southern Ohio) will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at Clear Creek Metro Park in southern Fairfield County. For more information (power point presentation, brochure, background information, past tests, etc.) or to register a team contact Linda at 486-9613, extension 115 or [Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org](mailto:Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org). Ask about the new materials for Envirothon preparation!

## National Engineers Week Future City Competition



COSI was the host of the Ohio Region Future Cities Competition on January 20th. Teams of 7th and 8th grade students from 47 Ohio schools participated, creating 3-D city models with the SimCity™ computer software. The winning Ohio team will advance to the national finals in Washington, D.C. For more information about this contest check out: [www.futurecityohio.org](http://www.futurecityohio.org).

# Upcoming Events for Educators



## Environmental Educator Workshops

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and Highbanks Metro Park are partnering with other environmental agencies to offer this series of workshops. Formal classroom teachers and non-formal educators are welcome. A Certificate of Attendance for CEUs will be provided and college credit through Ashland University is available upon the completion of any two sessions for an additional fee. Sessions will be held at Highbanks Metro Park unless otherwise noted. To register or obtain additional information contact Linda at [linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org](mailto:linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org) or 614-486-9613.

## EXPERIENCING NATURE THROUGH ART

February 24 Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Find out how to tap into students' creativity as they explore the natural world around them. Activities that use art and music, sound waves, visual art and natural dyes will reinforce important scientific concepts following the science and fine arts academic content standards for grades K-5. \$15



## HIDDEN WETLANDS

March 10 Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Explore temporary spring pools and the fascinating life cycles found there. Using science academic content standards for grades 3-5, discover ways to bring this local resource alive in your classroom. \$15



## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

May 5 Sat 8:30 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

Gwynne Conservation Area, London OH

Put on waders and find out what lives in the stream! Watch sediment as it is carried down stream and deposited in a delta. Travel the world as a water molecule! Watch pollution move from land to water and into the ground water supply. Carry home a "boat load" of free materials, including a LaMotte Water Test kit compliments of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. Activities are correlated to the science academic content standards for grades 4-8.



## COSI Teacher Programs



Pre-Service/New Teacher Overnight  
February 23 – 24, 2007

COSI has a fun and exciting program for pre-service and new science teachers! Join us for an overnight experience to learn from experts.

**New This Year!** A session led by the Ohio Department of Education on preparing your students to answer short-response questions on the Ohio Achievement Test.

### Additional topics include:

- Chemical & Physical Change
- Exploring the Soil Tunnel
- Healthy Water/Healthy People
- Project Wet (classroom lessons related to water)
- Tour of the Universe
- Animal Adaptations
- Odd Pets
- Teaching in Urban Settings
- How Do I Get A Job?
- Rocks & Minerals

Concurrent sessions will run Friday, February 23, from noon to 10:00 pm, and Saturday, February 24, from 8:30 am to noon. "Brave" participants can spend Friday night at COSI for the full COSI experience! The cost is \$70 and includes COSI admission, workshops, materials, dinner, breakfast, and a place to sleep.

Receive one semester graduate credit from Ashland University for an additional \$157. Arrangements can be made for Ohio State University credit.

For more information, visit <http://www.cosi.org/educators/professional-development/>

Also check this site for future COSI workshops:

6/20-21 Inquiring Into Chemical & Physical Change

7/17-18 Inquiring Into Weather

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

**February: National Snack Food Month**

- February 2: Groundhog Day
- February 11: Inventor's Day
- February 23: Peace and World Understanding Day



**March: National Nutrition Month**

- March 12-16: Brain Awareness Week
- March 18-24: American Chocolate Week
- March 21: First Day of Spring

**April: National Garden Month**

- April 15-21: National Environmental Education Week  
find ways to celebrate on  
[www.eeweek.org/index.html](http://www.eeweek.org/index.html)
- April 22-29: National Wildlife Week

**2007 Spring Tree and Fish Sale**



Looking to plant trees, wildflowers or native grasses, or stock your pond this spring? Check out Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Spring Tree and Fish Sale. A variety of items including bareroot tree and shrub seedlings, native grass seeds and wildflower seeds are available. The deadline for tree sale orders is March 9th and March 30th for fish. Please refer to the Franklin SWCD Newsletter, "Frankly Speaking" or [www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org) for a complete listing of available species.



District programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT — A Federal/State/Local partnership funded by: Franklin County Commissioners; State of Ohio; Columbus, Canal Winchester, Gahanna, Hilliard, Reynoldsburg, Westerville, Worthington; Villages of New Albany and Obetz; Blendon, Brown, Franklin, Hamilton, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Norwich, Plain, Pleasant, Prairie and Sharon Townships; The Nature Conservancy; Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks; Darby Creek Association; Franklin County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Engineers, Sanitary Engineers, and Board of Health; Ohio EPA: Ohio Environmental Education Fund and resource assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.



**FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
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**COLUMBUS, OH 43215**

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